COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 19 March 5, 1966

PROPERTY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
FEB 28 1967
RECEIVED
DOCUMENTS DIVISION

Authorize 20,000 More U.S. Troops in RVN

Some 20,000 more U.S. servicemen have been authorized for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam, bringing the total to around 235,000.

This was revealed by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara in refuting what he called the "erroneous impression that the United States is now militarily overextended because of the deployment of major combat forces in Southeast Asia."

Secretary McNamara emphasized that such an impression has absolutely no basis in fact, saying "We are fully capable of meeting our treaty commitments elsewhere in the world."

Referring to President Johnson's statement that RVN requirements will be met, the Secretary said we have done so to date and we expect to do so in the future.

He pointed out that typical emergency conditions such as a reserve call-up, extension of active duty tours and imposing economic controls over wages and prices, profits and materials have not been invoked.

"The very fact that we haven't taken these steps means that we still have great untapped resources upon which we could call quickly to meet any major contingencies which may confront us in the future."

"I think it is essential," the Secretary said, "that this point be clearly understood by friend and foe alike so that there may be no miscalculation as to our capabilities to meet our treaty commitments anywhere in the world."

Logistics Increases to Enable Larger Combat Force Support

Major increases in the production and logistics base of the Defense Department, achieved during the last six to eight months, will enable the United States to support, in combat, forces considerably larger than now deployed, Secretary McNamara has stated.

He emphasized that, "No shortages have impeded our combat operations in Southeast Asia or affected the morale or welfare of our men." This has been attested to, the Secretary said, by military leaders in the area and by the Chairman and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, three of whom recently visited

(Continued on page 4)

FOR THE FIRST TIME—A photograph of some members of the 12 U.S. combat units in Vietnam that became the first recipients under combat conditions to receive the Treasury Department's Minuteman Flag, is displayed by Treasury Secretary Henry H. Fowler. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara was briefed before increasing his U.S. Saving Bond Payroll Savings allotment.

RVN Support Action Cited As 'Proud Accomplishment'

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said the nation should be proud of the high state of readiness of the military forces and their contribution to United States commitments.

"We should be proud of fulfilling our commitments. We should be proud of the support we are providing to a brave people who are fighting for their freedom. We should be proud of a unique military accomplishment," his statement read.

"As I said, no nation in history has accomplished what we have, deploying 300,000 people (to Southeast Asia), 10,000 miles away, without a call of reserves, without controlling our economy. We put over 100,000 men there in 120 days. We should be proud of that. We should be proud of the leadership that our military commanders are giving to our forces.

"I don't think any army in history has been more magnificently led than that commanded by Westmoreland (Gen. William C. Westmoreland, MACV commander). And I mean not only Westmoreland himself, but all the leaders, right down in to the battalion levels, right down through the noncommissioned officer ranks.

"We should be proud of the gallantry of our men. We should be proud of the restraint that our Commander-in-Chief is using in applying what is an almost unlimited military power."

Washington Memos

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IN the Defense inventory total about 4,700, including both active and reserve forces of Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, says Secretary McNamara. Only a fraction of these have been committed to SE Asia. In an emergency, the Secretary said, 2,300 additional tactical fighter and attack aircraft could be deployed in combat within 90 days.

CONSUMPTION OF AIR-DELIVERED munitions alone by U.S. forces will be running at about 2½ times the average monthly rate in the three years of the Korean War, Secretary McNamara stated, adding that we are prepared to support even higher rates in the months ahead.

AIRLIFT CAPABILITY TO SE Asia will have about tripled between June 1961 and June 1966, Secretary McNamara said, and on the basis planned for the FY66-71 period, will increase ten-fold by FY72 as compared with FY61.

NAVY COMMANDING OFFICERS can now authorize hostile fire payments for members of their command in Vietnam. Prior approving authority was the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet.

U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE the enemy fatality figures released by the United States represent perhaps the most accurate reporting of any war in history. If anything, they contend the enemy fatalities are understated by the United States since only the actual body count is made public.

CAPTURED VIET CONG reveal their morale is affected by B-52 bomber raids, artillery bombardments and pressure from ground attacks. These operations are credited by officials with breaking up VC attacks before they start, with limiting their operations and with bringing increased numbers of defectors over to the RVN side.

MEMBERS OF LONG Range Patrol Co., VII Corps, Stuttgart, Germany, demonstrated reconnaissance skills for Ambassador to Norway Margaret Joy Tibbetts and high ranking Norwegian officials Feb. 23. Ambassador Tibbetts is accompanying officials on tour of American elements of NATO forces in Europe.

CONTINUED FAVORABLE ENLISTMENT trend has enabled DOD to reduce Selective Service requirements for March by 10,500. March call now reduced from 32,900 to 22,400. Of revised March call, 18,400 will go to Army and 4,000 to Marine Corps.

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S Office has announced that qualified optometrists may now volunteer for commissions in Medical Service Corps with concurrent active duty tours of two or three years. They were previously required to serve three year initial tour.

ARMED FORCES INFORMATION and Education has released film titled "Southwest Asia and India Today," for use in military information programs. Film discusses problems, geographic importance of India, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED plans to issue three additional commemorative postage stamps in 1966. Stamps will salute U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, encourage Beautification of America program and commemorate 1,000 years of culture in Poland.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR Engineering Education has named Lt. Col. William F. Luebbert, USA, Assistant to the Dean, U.S. Military Academy, as Chairman of newly formed Committee on Computers in Engineering Education.

MR. ELTON C. FAY, Associated Press, has been awarded a DOD citation by Secretary Robert S. McNamara in recognition of his long and distinguished career as a newsman. Mr. Fay, who is retiring, covered the armed forces for 21 of the 42 years he has been with AP.

COL. RALPH S. GARMAN has been named to succeed Maj. Gen. John W. White as commander of Air Force Special Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M., March 1, 1966.

UNITED TECHNOLOGY CENTER, Sunnyvale, Calif., has test-fired solid-propellant rocket using nontoxic fuel which delivered highest performance of any known rocket of comparable size. Fuel used new compound which could increase range and payload capabilities of present solid-propellant rockets by improving burning characteristics.

ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL will soon be using a new travel form when filing for reimbursement of both personal and dependent travel. The new DD series forms will be used by all services for payment of travel allowances to both civilian and military personnel, and will result in uniform claim presentation and payment procedures and simplify cross-disbursing between services.

COL. RICHARD K. HUTSON, USA, Chief of Staff, Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service, has been awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Legion of Merit. Award was given for outstanding service as deputy chief of transportation for Headquarters, Department of Army, from August 1962 to June 1964.

NATO MEMBER NATIONS should revise their military budgets upward in line with their Gross National Product. U.S. officials pointed out that the Southeast Asia situation affects all free world nations. Whatever NATO members contribute to the Vietnam conflict is left up to them, but the feeling is that contributions should be made.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Background For Commanders

Secretary of State Reaffirms Basic U.S. Policy on Vietnam

Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Feb. 18, Secretary of State Dean Rusk reaffirmed the following 14-point statement of U.S. policy on Vietnam:

1. The Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962 are an adequate basis for peace in Southeast Asia;

2. We would welcome a conference in Southeast Asia or on any part thereof;

3. We would welcome "negotiations without preconditions" as the 17 nations put it;

4. We would welcome unconditional discussions as President Johnson put it;

5. A cessation of hostilities could be the first order of business at a conference or could be the subject of preliminary discussions;

6. Hanoi's four points could be discussed along with other points which others might wish to propose;

7. We want no U.S. bases in Southeast Asia;

8. We do not desire to retain U.S. troops in South Vietnam after peace is assured;

9. We support free elections in South Vietnam to give the South Vietnamese a government of their own choice;

10. The question of reunification of Vietnam should be determined by the Vietnamese through their own free decision;

11. The countries of Southeast Asia can be nonaligned or neutral if that be their option;

12. We would much prefer to use our resources for the economic reconstruction of Southeast Asia than in war. If there is peace, North Vietnam could participate in a regional effort to which we would be prepared to contribute at least $1 billion;

13. The President has said, "The Viet Cong would not have difficulty being represented and having their views represented if for a moment Hanoi decided she wanted to cease aggression. I don't think that would be an insurmountable problem.";

14. We have said publicly and privately that we could stop the bombing of North Vietnam as a step toward peace although there has not been the slightest hint or suggestion from the other side as to what they would do if the bombing stopped.

* * *

Secretary Rusk concluded with the following:

...the Hanoi regime is demanding the following preconditions to which the United States must agree before the Communists will even condescend to negotiate:

First, that the South Vietnamese government be overthrown;

Second, that the Liberation Front, the creature and agent of Hanoi, be accepted as the sole bargaining representative for the South Vietnamese people;

Third, that South Vietnam be put under the control of a coalition government formed by the Communists and from which the South Vietnamese government would be excluded.

May I conclude, therefore, Mr. Chairman, with certain simple points which are at the heart of the problem and at the heart of United States policy in South Vietnam.

- **The elementary fact is that there is an agression in the form of an armed attack by North Vietnam against South Vietnam.**
- **The United States has commitments to assist South Vietnam to repel this aggression.**
- **Our commitments to South Vietnam were not taken in isolation but are a part of a systematic effort in the postwar period to assure a stable peace.**
- **The issue in Southeast Asia becomes worldwide because we must make clear that the United States keeps its word wherever it is pledged.**
- **No nation is more interested in peace in Southeast Asia or elsewhere than is the United States. If the armed attack against South Vietnam is brought to an end, peace can come very quickly. Every channel or forum for contact, discussion or negotiation will remain active in order that no possibility for peace will be overlooked.**

Continue Search for Crash Material off Spanish Coast

Search is continuing off the Spanish coast for recovery of material carried by two planes involved in a Jan. 17 air collision.

Several unarmed nuclear weapons were aboard a B-52 that collided with a KC-135 tanker. One has not been recovered.

Impact of the weapons on land resulted in detonation of high explosive materials, scattering plutonium and uranium in the immediate vicinity of the impact area. Officials stress there was no nuclear explosion because of built-in safeguards developed over the years.

Radiological surveys of the Palomares area and its human and animal populations included detailed laboratory studies. There is no evidence of a health hazard.

Experts say there are also no hazards from eating vegetables marketed from this area, or from eating the meat or drinking the milk of animals.

Steps have been taken to insure that the affected areas are thoroughly cleaned up and some soil and vegetation are being removed.

Army Studies Construction Of Small Arms Ranges

The Army Infantry Board's Combat Conditions Test Division, Ft. Benning, Ga., is conducting a series of tests to determine proper construction of firing ranges for testing small arms effectiveness.

First series of tests will be held at an instrumented attack range, constructed to simulate combat conditions during an attack.

Stanford Research Institute, a non-profit organization which conducts research in sciences and engineering, will support the Test Division.

Logistics Increases to Aid In Combat Force Support

(Continued from page 1)

Vietnam and talked with commanders down to the battalion level.

The Secretary noted we are moving more than 700,000 measurement tons of cargo per month to SE Asia by ship and that ships are now being unloaded promptly. Cargo backlog, which rose as high as 257,000 measurement tons in November, is now down to less than 100,000 tons, the equivalent of four day's work at current unloading rates, he added.

Regarding ammunition, the Secretary said the $7.8 billion included in the FY66-67 budgets for that purpose would not only support higher rates of consumption in SE Asia, but will also provide substantial additions to stocks.

MORTAR
SQUARE
VACANCY
SHRAPNEL APTS

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT?—"Mortar Square," USAF outpost 10 miles south of North Vietnam is a favorite target for Viet Cong mortars. One tent was hit by a dud round that buried itself three feet underground below a sleeping airman's bunk.

Fill Navy OCS Line Quotas

A vast increase in applications for the Navy Officer Candidate School has made it necessary to reject many because of quota limitations.

OCS Line Officer classes are filled through September, leaving approximately 360 vacancies to be filled for the rest of 1966. Navy recruiting has had similar success in procuring Naval flight officers, but there is still a shortage of civil engineers, physicians, nurses and college graduates for pilot training.

USCG Opens 1966 International Ice Patrol

The most intensive assault ever made by the U.S. Coast Guard on problems created by icebergs drifting into shipping lanes of the North Atlantic began in early March.

Coast Guard's International Ice Patrol, which begins its 52nd year this spring, will employ some of the most modern scientific devices available to study the Labrador and Gulf Stream currents which affect iceberg movements.

They will include radiometric iceberg detectors, satellite photo reconnaissance and calcium chloride-rhodamine bombs to dye icebergs a brilliant vermillion. Studies will also be made on the use of oceanographic monitor buoys.

$12 Million Saved By 'Cleansweep'

Close cooperation between resident Navy auditors and personnel of the Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, Calif., saved the government more than $12 million last year.

Large quantities of unused material on hand were redistributed, including aircraft engines and spare parts worth $7.5 million released to the Air Force, under Operation Cleansweep.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. Charles C. Noble, Eighth Army engineer, reassigned to U.S. Army Element, Office of the Secretary of Defense. **Maj. Gen. Hugh Mackintosh, USA,** CG, QM Center and Ft. Lee, Va., to retire March 31. **Maj. Gen. Victor J. MacLaughlin, USA,** Asst. Director, Plans, Programs and Systems, DSA, Alexandria, Va., to succeed Gen. Mackintosh. **Maj. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, USAF,** PACAF, Chief of Staff, presented AF Distinguished Service Medal. **RAdm. James C. Dempsey, USN,** Chief of the Navy Mission in Turkey, to become Asst. Vice CNO and Director of Naval Administration. Legions of Merit for meritorious service awarded to **RAdms. Roy M. Isaman, Joseph W. Williams Jr. (3rd award), Frank W. Vannoy** and **Onnie Peter Lattu (SC).**

CONTRACT AWARDS

United States Steel Corp., Cincinnati, Ohio: $1,298,446 fixed-price contract for 108,690 spools of barbed wire. **(DSA)**

Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.: $14,980,751 cost-plus-fixed fee contract for 5.56mm and 7.62mm ammunition. **(Army)**

Philadelphia Gear Corp., King of Prussia, Pa.: $1,465,590 fixed-price contract for elevation drive assemblies for the AN/SPG-55A/B radar and installation tools. **(Navy)**

AVCO Corp., Wilmington, Mass.: $5,900,000 initial increment to $20,000,000 contract for design, development, test and evaluation of ballistic penetration aids. **(Air Force)**

l

ever
rd on
drift-
North
.
l Ice
year
of the
avail-
Gulf
eberg

c ice-
econ-
-rho-
rgs a
l also
aphic

d

sident
f the
Mugu,
more

ma-
buted,
spare
ed to
ration

3,-
ed

4,-
nd

1,-
m-
on

ial
op-
ds.